

Message Text

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ACTION AGRE-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 EB-08 COME-00 /034 W
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R 021916Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4650
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
USMISSION GENEVA

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PASS AGRICULTURE ELECTRONICALLY

USEEC, USOECD, USMTN

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, EC, BE, LU
SUBJECT: EC PROPOSAL FOR REGISTRATION OF SEED
MULTIPLICATION CONTRACTS IN THIRD COUNTRIES

REF: STATE 015510

1. AGATT DISCUSSED SUBJECT PROPOSAL WITH MARCEL STUYCK,
DIRECTOR GENERAL, ECONOMIC SERVICES ADMINISTRATION,
BELGIAN MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE.

2. STUYCK SAID BELGIANS HAVE NOT YET REALLY FOCUSED ON
THIS ISSUE, BUT GUESSED MOA PROBABLY WOULD NOT TAKE A
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STRONG POSITION EITHER FOR OR AGAINST IT.

3. CONCERNING SEED TRADE IN GENERAL, STUYCK FEELS IT IS
MUCH MORE IMPORTANT TO ESTABLISH A CLEAR SET OF STANDARDS
RELATING TO SUCH MATTERS AS GERMINATION; PURITY;
CLEANLINESS; SEED DEFINITIONS; ETC.

4. AGATT ALSO DISCUSSED PROPOSAL WITH JOSEPH FRISCH OF LUXEMBOURG MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE WHO SAID LUXEMBOURG IS TAKING A NEUTRAL POSITION ON THIS ISSUE. FRISCH SAID PROPOSAL WAS DESIGNED TO PROVIDE IMPROVED MARKET INFORMATION NEEDED BY COMMUNITY OFFICIALS FOR SETTING PRODUCER SUBSIDIES AND BY FARMERS FOR PLANTING DECISIONS. HE INDICATED PROPOSAL WOULD APPLY ONLY TO SEEDS DESTINED TO RETURN TO THE EC, AND WAS NOT AIMED AT REDUCING SEED IMPORTS.

5. ONE OF OUR BELGIAN SEED TRADE CONTACTS INFORMED US THAT ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 31, THE EUROPEAN SEED TRADE ASSOCIATION (COSEMCO) MET WITH EC REPRESENTATIVES AND OFFICIALLY PROTESTED AGAINST THE SUBJECT PROPOSAL FOR ALL SEEDS EXCEPT CORN, FOR WHICH THE COMMUNITY REPORTEDLY IS SELF-SUFFICIENT. OUR CONTACT THINKS THAT WHILE PASSAGE OF THIS PROPOSAL MIGHT BE DELAYED, IT EVENTUALLY WILL BE ADOPTED BECAUSE THE COMMUNITY WANTS TO HAVE BETTER CONTROL OVER SEED SUPPLIES.

6. COMMENT: WHILE THE BELGIAN AND LUXEMBOURG GOVERNMENTS DO NOT APPEAR TO BE TOO CONCERNED OVER THIS ISSUE, THEY MAY DECIDE TO SUPPORT IT IN RETURN FOR ASSISTANCE IN OTHER AREAS. CHAMBERS

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